Stephen Reeves 9/22

Writing 105 Picture



<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/11/sports/othersports/11amputee.html?_r=2>

**1.** **What are your first impressions of this image? Reactions? Feelings?**

My first impression of this image is that this is someone people could look up to and admire. This runner has not let his disability take over his life. He still runs and walks as if he had no disability.

**2. Describe the image/sculpture in detail (inside the frame, 70-71): the artistic technique, materials, colors, shapes, spatial relationships, contrast, placement, etc.**

This is an image of a runner taking off or putting on special running “legs.” The image shows the runner on a track. Next to the runner is one of his “running blades” and his prosthetic.

**3. What is the immediate context of this image (inside the frame)?**

The immediate context of this picture is in a New York Times article.

**4. What is the original context of the image (beyond the frame, 71)? Where can this be found? And, what is the historical, social, or political context?**

The original context of this image is one a track in South Africa where he is from. The social context of this picture is that he was going to be the first disabled persons to compete in a non-Paralympic Olympic. Later the International Association of Athletics Federations the governing body for track banned the running blades used by Oscar Pistorius.

**5. Who is the author(s)/creator(s)? What do you know about them? What is important about who they are and how does who they are affect the piece?**

The photographer of this piece is Tim Ockenden. His is a photographer for the Associated Press.

**6. Can you identify the creator’s purpose? What is it? Is there more than one?**

The creator’s purpose was to show that Oscar Pistorius was a disabled runner. The author showed the transition over from a regular prosthetic to a running blade. The purpose was to inform people that the disabled can be strong and athletic.

**7. Who is the intended audience(s)? What knowledge or experiences do viewers bring to the image/text? Are their secondary audiences?**

The audience to this photo is the general public, specifically the readers of the New York Times. The audience brings the knowledge of knowing that disabled people are portrayed in society as not as athletic, strong, and independent. This is changed do to this picture. Here Oscar Pistorius has put on running shoes and is going to start his training for the Olympics.

**8. Using a theory of Linton, Garland-Thomson, hooks, Sontag, Scarry, or Millett-Gallant, write out an arguable, evaluative judgment that shows how the image works or what is important about it.**

Simi Linton wrote about reassigning meaning to the medical term disabilities. Linton believed that disabilities and words like handicapped and crippled were too broad of words to describe a diverse group of people that make up the handicapped population (Linton, “Reassigning Meaning” 224). This picture demonstrates just that. Oscar Pistorius does not let anything get in his way of his goal of competing in the abled bodied Olympics. Linton talks of not overcoming a disability, but passing it. Pistorius has done that by accepting his disability and doing something that seemed improbable. Now he might be able to compete in the Olympics.

**9. What from your answers above supports this interpretation (the interpretation being your arguable, evaluative judgment from no. 8).**

The author’s purpose helps me support my argument for number 8. He wanted to inform the audience of the strength and determination of Pistorius. The social context of this image also helps support my claim, because this picture was taken in 2007, just before Pistorius was supposed to run in Olympic qualifiers.